

Minutes of the 9/10/15 Balance of Washington State Continuum Steering Committee in Leavenworth

27 attending at start, others joined

Phoebe Nelson, CO-Chair opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves

Round Table Comments by participants – Those attending were asked to highlight local successes or issues.

Whitman Co – New staff

Chelan/Douglas – Rolling out CES

Cowlitz Co –Sam Rabin (CES) Updating 10 Year Plan, 18 months of work on CES has led to evolving system. Melissa – Increasing rents . Recently found 27 people living in cars, causing them to modify their outreach system

Lewis – CES starting up

Skagit - Lack of affordable housing

Klickitat Co – Process for funding affordable housing now in being put in place. Will start a new TBRA PSH project soon

Skamania Co – Working on educating the Commissioners on housing and homeless issues

Walla Walla – Started over with Building Changes on their CES. Are currently fund-raising for a 6 bed youth shelter

Grays Harbor/Pacific – Previously had been inactive but are now building a new collaborative process, new faces working on housing in the area, 10 year plan under development, starting up CES

Jefferson – Are targeting homeless, low income and seniors in a project

Benton- Franklin – Judith Gidley Just combined 4 PSH grants into 2. Bidding out for a day shelter for families with children, showers, laundry, child care. CES started 18 months ago. (Tammy)

Thurston – Tight rental market, rents going up significantly.

DSHS (Theresa Slusher) – Was hired by DSHS to bring a housing perspective to the services component, including TANF. Invited members to call on her if need assistance

Robin from Building Changes – Building a new business plan model to include housing stability (education, health care and employment. Children and Families Fund received \$3 million from legislature.

Mason – Little rental inventory and competition from those with more income bump the homeless and lower income

Grant – Homeless Taskforce is working on a warming center that might be ready by 1/1/16. More people on move to the Moses Lake and more staying. Police moving homeless out of business district.

Island – Working on housing for Veterans. Working on a loan to developers for up-front costs of starting development work on affordable housing

Spokane (non-member) - Working on a Veterans Initiative Goal 165 beds by 2015 achieved goal. Youth housing is the problem, planning on reallocating M-V for youth and transitional housing

Phoebe Nelson summed up the comments: Common themes were heard from round table (housing costs increasing, members are finding ways to provide more housing and services, the CES is not universally in place as many have developed one and now are realigning it. As we have more in-person meetings our communication will improve.

Proposal for Restructuring BoS Committees Framework and roles by Theresa Slusher (Planning Committee Chair) The focus of the changes is to increase our efforts on specific subpopulations. This is a follow-up on the spring in-person meeting and last conference call during which it was originally proposed. The restructuring will help breakdown the performance issues so we can see what is happening with our programs (allows telescoping in on issues). She described an organizational chart she passed out. The focus is on data in PIT to better plan for reducing homeless for each sub-pop. It also allows goals-oriented approach. John Epler, BoS Consultant laid out the two options (Committees of sub-pop groups limiting their focus on only McKinney-Vento (M-V) grants vs. Committees focused on sub pop groups encompassing all activities). The latter approach would allow us to work on issues year round vs just at application time. He indicated we are required to coordinate ESG and M-V allocations and we have responsibility for populations as much as any group. Indicated it would be more work, spreading members thin, and we need to be sure we have the capacity to do it. How does the sub pop group relate to the Planning Committee? What about goal-setting? Phoebe Nelson comment: The scope of this change should not just McKinney-Vento but all program activity in Balance of State. Joe Ingram, Co-chair says each group would have a rep on the Planning Committee. Reporting to the BoS in general is important (needs to be an integral step). Judith Gidley said we need to have BoS set the number of meetings that would be required of each group. How does a non M-V county get involved/stay informed? Proposal can be organized to not limit ourselves to M-V. Linda Schneider commented that we need to not lose the strength of efforts on improving M-V and HUD standards so that we can remain competitive. Melissa Taylor would be concerned if it were just the grantees that were members of the Committees. Walla Walla representative indicated we needed to include the state wide sector and the local sector on the org chart.

A motion was proposed by Phoebe Nelson to adopt the proposed restructuring, including that the membership and scope of the structure would include M-V and non-M-V persons and non-M-V counties. Joe Ingram seconded. Motion passed by a majority.

Sign-ups for the Committees would be done conducted at break and afterwards through e-mails.

Proposal to endorse the Federal Plan to End Homelessness by Theresa Slusher. Theresa introduced a proposal to endorse the Federal Plan to End Homelessness and to use it as a planning tool for the BoS. Phoebe Nelson indicated the proposal is not to adopt the Plan. She Suggested take out the wording in the proposal that we “align with the Fed Plan” so that we do not pin ourselves with all the detail of the Plan. Kathy Morgan moved that the motion in the proposal* be approved subject to removal of the “alignment” phraseology. Melissa Taylor asked if we are endorsing the original plan dated 2010 or all of its amendments. The answer was, just the 2010 basic plan. See page two of the proposal paper for the motion.* The motion was seconded by Katherine Reid from Island County. Passed unanimously.

Proposal to adopt the HUD standards for using a system of prioritizing homeless persons for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds based upon vulnerability criteria provided by HUD – presented by John Epler. John presented a proposal to formally adopt the Tiered Prioritization System and procedures of the CPD Notice 14-012 with written procedures for requiring all McKinney-Vento Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to follow the order of priority consistent with their current grant agreement, (resulting in targeting persons who need the assistance most), and implementing procedures for inclusion in the Balance of State Policies and Procedures of Governance. There was discussion concerning the impacts and reasoning. HUD standards are expected to be met in order to maintain the Continuum’s competitiveness for future grants and that if we decide not meet the standards, we will need to make it up in other point in the system in order to remain competitive. John indicated he had surveyed both M-V PSH grantees and CES Coordinators to obtain their concerns and ideas on the proposal. He indicated most of the comments were positive while some indicated they wanted to use a recently adopted VI-SPDAT vulnerability system. John indicated that both systems could be used concurrently without conflict. Discussion included a commitment by John Epler to pursue with HUD the potential for switching the order of priorities b and c. John moved that we formally adopt the system of prioritization found in HUD CPD Notice 14-012 and include it in the BoS’ detailed Policies and Procedures. After discussion, the motion was amended by a friendly amendment by Phoebe Nelson to include the wording on page 3 of the CPD Notice that says “with the adoption and incorporation into the CoC’s written standards, all recipients of CoC program -funded (M-V) PSH must then follow this order of priority, consistent with their current grant agreement, which will result in this intervention being targeted to the person who it the most. The motion was seconded by Kathy Covey. Motion carried.

Other

Joe Ingram asked that the Bos meetings have standardized dates re: time of the month. There had been a doodle poll earlier but since no one was sure of the result, Nick Mondau was asked to find out the results for the next meeting.

John Epler advised that the HUD Application NOFA was likely to be a matter of a few weeks away and that we may have it by the time we next meet. He urged people to thinking of leverage letters to support the renewal projects but that they should not sign any letters until they are advised by John or Nick as they would have to be revised once the NOFA comes out. He also asked that if anyone was planning to convert their existing grant to either Rapid Rehousing or Chronic Homeless PSH, that they contact him to talk about it. The BoS encourages such conversions.

Next In person meeting Nick Mondau discussed the next in-person meeting which will be held in Suncadia, near Cle Elm on October 26th.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 PM.

***See the attached for details on the Proposals**